

Dustin Monroe

Madam Chair and committee Members, I rise against SB 408, a bill that would eliminate the third Party candidate or the independent.

This bill would make Montana an only two party state. Eliminating the voice of the minority party and minorities like veterans, Native Americans, women and other minority groups.

"What is top two voting? Simply put, it would allow an open primary with all candidates, regardless of party affiliation. The two candidates earning the most votes would move on to the November election. Write-in candidates would be banned. Independent candidates would need to compete in the primary elections against their well-funded (and often incumbent) opponents. Voters in many of our gerrymandered districts would only see candidates of a single party on the November ballot.

Two significant problems are that: The two candidates who survive to the general election can be two Democrats or two Republicans—with no one from any other party. It is virtually impossible for anyone from a third party to make it to the general election.

It would also increase the power of outside influence and allow majority Parties to buy candidates instead of leaving the power to the Voters of Montana

One of the most famous Libertarians who ran for President was a Native American, Russell Means. I remember reading a saying that this government was forced on us. He was the third party the **Brown Party**.

*What we were trying to do was to show people that it can be done. In 1974 I heard John Maw, a Seneca leader of the Iroquois Confederacy, say "if you want to be sovereign, act sovereign." That is all you have to do. If you want to be sovereign, act sovereign. Be an example. Freedom works. Create free institutions.*

This Bill is an attack on Montana's Democracy and the rights of Montana. I ask this committee to vote No on SB 408

EXHIBIT

DATE

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